

Clinchport Masonic Lodge No. 267  
Second Avenue (U.S. 65)  
Clinchport  
Scott County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-984

HABS  
VA,  
85-CLII  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## CLINCHPORT MASONIC LODGE NO. 267

HABS  
VA,  
85-CLT  
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Address: Second Avenue (U.S. 65)  
Clinchport, Scott County, Virginia.

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Clinchport Masonic Lodge No. 267.

Present Use: First floor - vacant.  
Second floor - Masonic Temple.

Statement of  
Significance: The Clinchport Masonic Lodge, No. 267, constructed c. 1890, was taken over by the lodge in December of 1897. This high quality wood frame rural commercial structure is an excellent example of vernacular design and detailing, and is a major structure from both the east and west entrances to Clinchport. It is the predominant silhouette from the west entrance and river.

While the first floor has served a variety of purposes—store, Post Office, town hall, community meeting center—the second floor has continually functioned as the Masonic Lodge meeting room.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Original owner unknown. The structure was taken over by the Clinchport Masonic Lodge No. 267 in 1897 or 1898.
2. Date of erection: c. 1890.
3. Architect/builder: Unknown.
4. Alterations and additions: The foundations of this building have been replaced on numerous occasions as the building has been raised and lowered due to its location in the flood plain of the Clinch River.

The original stairway to the second floor went up the exterior wall of the west facade. This was most likely removed at the time an addition, with an internal stair, was completed on the rear (south) facade (date unknown).

## B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Structure.

No information on this available.

C. Sources of Information

Conversation with Clinchport residents and Lodge members.

Prepared by: Michael Emrick  
Project Supervisor  
Building Conservation  
Technology, Tenn.

June 1978.

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Typical late 19th Century wood frame commercial structure. Flat (sloping) roof, decorative front facade with double door entrance and large store windows on both floors. Roof bracketing is quite ornate on front facade as is shinglework. Brackets are simple on both side facades and non-existent on rear (all three minor facades have clapboarding).
2. Condition of fabric: Generally good, though there has been water damage from the most recent (Spring 1978) flood on the first floor.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: A rectangular structure of 20' by 52', detached and two stories in height (30').
2. Foundations: Rusticated concrete block under the original section and basic concrete block under the addition.
3. Wall construction, finish, color: Wood frame construction with wood weatherboards on east, south and west facades and a horizontal and vertical grid with patterned wood shingles and window and door infill on main (north) facade. Building is painted white.
4. Structural system: Wood frame with wooden floor and roof joists.
5. Porches: A recent concrete porch on the north facade is the terminus of a raised flood-level sidewalk connecting the Masonic Temple to other commercial buildings further west. This porch is roofed by a sheet metal roof on triangular brackets

set between the first and second floors.

6. Chimneys: One internal concrete block chimney in the northwest corner of the addition.
7. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Main entry is a double wood door with incised decoration and a transom over it. East and south doors are simple, panelled single doors. All doors have flat trim surrounds.
  - b. Windows and shutters: North facade windows are four pane fixed sash. Windows on east and west are high casement types with six panes. South facade windows are 6/6 double hung. There are no shutters. All windows have flat trim surrounds.
8. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Slightly inclined flat roof of sheet metal projecting past the wall line.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans
  - a. Basement: Low, rectangular crawlspace.
  - b. First floor: Large rectangular front room with a cove ceiling (wood) following the long dimension. In the rear addition are an internal stair, kitchen, two water closets and a mechanical room.
  - c. Second floor: Large rectangular front room with raised platforms around the perimeter. The addition has two preparation rooms and one water closet.
  - d. Attic: Low crawlspace.
2. Stairways: One internal stair in the southeast corner, enclosed and L-shape with landing in plan.
3. Flooring: First floor - wood, second floor - carpet.
4. Wall and ceiling finishes
  - a. First floor: 2" horizontal tongue-and-groove wood paneling.

b. Second floor: Plaster.

5. Doorways and doors: Simple wood panel doors.

6. Trim: Generally flat and simple.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The Masonic Temple faces north and stands isolated on a corner of Second Avenue, one block from the small commercial center of Clinchport.

Prepared by: Michael Emrick  
Project Supervisor  
Building Conservation  
Technology Tenn.  
June 1978.

PART III: PROJECT INFORMATION

The recording of the Masonic Lodge No. 267 was done by Building Conservation Technology, Inc. of Rugby, Tennessee for the Tennessee Valley Authority during June 1978. Project supervisor was Michael Emrick and the building was measured and drawn by Daniel A. Buehler and Douglas A. Yorke, Jr.

These records were donated to the Historic American Building Survey by the Tennessee Valley Authority. John A. Burns, AIA, was the HABS project coordinator. The records were prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Robert S. Lange, a historian in the HABS office in June 1980.